

Amendment dated: September 22, 2003

Reply to OA of June 20, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A refrigerator cabinet assembly, comprising:

an outer case including two laterally spaced side walls and a top wall interconnecting the two side walls, a front edge portion of each of the side walls being bent inwardly so as to define a first and a second front face portion and a front edge portion of the top wall being bent inwardly so as to define a third front face portion including front face portions and rear face portions;

an upper front reinforcing member for increasing the structural rigidity of the outer case, the upper front reinforcing member being secured to the first and the second front face portion and the third front face portion;

a lower front reinforcing member for increasing the structural rigidity of the outer case, the lower front reinforcing member being secured to the first and the second front face portion; and

~~a plurality of reinforcing members for increasing the structural strength of the outer case; and~~

means for securing said plurality of reinforcing members to the outer case, wherein the refrigerator cabinet assembly is devoid of welded ~~portion~~ portions.

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Claim 2 (currently amended): The refrigerator cabinet assembly of claim 1, further comprising wherein said plurality of reinforcing members include a first and a second lower side reinforcing members member, wherein a rear edge portion of each of the side walls is bent inwardly so as to define a first and a second rear face portion, and each of the first and the second lower side reinforcing member is secured to the first and the second front face portion and the first and the second rear face portion.

Claims 3 and 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The refrigerator cabinet assembly of claim 1, further comprising wherein said plurality of reinforcing members include a first and a second reinforcing bracket, wherein the first and the second reinforcing bracket are secured to the first and the second front face portion, the first and the second reinforcing bracket being interposed between the first and the second front face portion and the upper reinforcing member.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The refrigerator cabinet assembly of claim 1, further comprising wherein said plurality of reinforcing members include an upper and a lower rear reinforcing members member, wherein a rear edge portion of each of the side walls is bent inwardly so as to define a first and a second rear face portion, and each of the upper and the lower rear reinforcing member is secured to the first and the second rear face portion.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The refrigerator cabinet assembly of claim 1, wherein the securing means members are self-drilling screws.

Claim 8 (original): The refrigerator cabinet assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer case is a pre-coated metal plate.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A refrigerator, comprising:

*AS*

A cabinet assembly including an outer case including two laterally spaced side walls and a top wall interconnecting the two side walls, a front edge portion of each of the side walls being bent inwardly so as to define a first and a second front face portion and a front edge portion of the top wall being bent inwardly so as to define a third front face portion, an upper front reinforcing member for increasing the structural rigidity of the outer case, the upper front reinforcing member being secured to the first and the second front face portion and the third front face portion, a lower front reinforcing member for increasing the structural rigidity of the outer case, the lower front reinforcing member being secured to the first and the second front face portion; and a plurality of reinforcing members for increasing the structural strength of the outer case and means for securing said plurality of reinforcing members to the outer case; and

a plurality of insulating members made of expandable polyethylene polystyrene,

wherein the refrigerator cabinet assembly is devoid of welded portion portions.

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